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SUBJECT: LETTER FROM KOZULIN'S WIFE TO USG, AMERICAN PEOPLE

¶1. The following is an unofficial translation of a letter from Irina Kozulina, wife of Belarus' imprisoned former opposition presidential candidate Aleksandr Kozulin. Post will send the original letter, received December 21, via pouch to EUR/UMB.

¶2. Begin text:

To the United States Government and the American people! Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen! Dear American People! I am the wife of Aleksandr Kozulin, former candidate for presidency in the Republic of Belarus. During the electoral campaign my husband dared to inform the Belarusian people of the Belarusian authorities' crimes and the illegitimacy of Aleksandr Lukashenko's presidency. For that the authorities subjected Dr. Kozulin to tremendous pressure. He faced obstacles while campaigning, he was repeatedly detained by special services, and he was severely beaten during the illegal detentions. This year in July Aleksandr Kozulin was convicted on trumped-up charges and sentenced to five and a half years of imprisonment.

But even in jail my husband continues his struggle against the illegitimate authorities and for the establishment of democracy in Belarus. From October 20 to December 11, 2006, Aleksandr Kozulin was on hunger strike in jail. One of the conditions he professed at the UN Security Council. Everyone said it would be difficult to fulfill this condition, that he would have to either concede or die. But Aleksandr does not know how to give up. He refused food for 53 days and lost around 30 kilograms of weight. Today he is extremely exhausted physically but his spirit is not broken.

It was the United States that despite all diplomatic and organizational formalities succeeded in accomplishing what was next to impossible.

I deeply appreciate the help of those in the United States government who contributed to making the decision to raise the issue of human rights violations at the UN Security Council. You saved the life of my husband and proved yet again that the life of a human being is of enormous value. You provided another shining example of your commitment to democratic values.

At this time we wanted to express our concern about the progress of the conflict in the society. Steps are just directed only at aggression. And destructive actions that are leading to war and violence.

A grateful to you.

11 of the Americans who supported my husband. I thank the radio and TV stations and the US government for their support. I am grateful to the United States Embassy for understanding and support.

Their was a time when Kosciuszko a Belarusian, fought for the American freedom, and it is symbolic that today Americans gave a man who is struggling for a free Belarus.

Irina Kozulina  
December 21, 2006  
Minsk, Belarus  
End text.

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